

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01180 01 OF 02 051555Z

53

ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3622

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 1180

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LY US

SUBJ: QADHAFI INTERVIEW WITH U.S. CORRESPONDENT

REF: TRIPOLI 1174 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW GRANTED
NEWSWEEKS ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 4
BY LIBYAN LEADER COL. QADHAFI (KADDAFI). SOURCE AND
INFORMATION SHOULD BE STRICTLY PROTECTED UNTIL
AFTER PLANNED PUBLICATION BY NEWSWEEK SEPT 13. OF
PARTICULAR NOTE ARE KADDAFI'S COMMENTS ON LIBYAN-SOVIET
RELATIONS, HIS APPRENT INTEREST IN CONTINUING DIALOG
WITH U.S. AS WELL AS HIS PERCEPTIONS OF U.S. ALLEGED
HOSTILITY AND HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD EVENTS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA, AND QADHAFI'S PERSONAL WORK HABITS.

2. EXCERPTS INTERVIEW FOLLOW:

"BORCHGRAVE -- NO COUP IS POSSIBLE IN LIBYA, YOU HAVE SAID,
BECAUSE POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO DECIDE
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01180 01 OF 02 051555Z

EVERYTHING. WERE THE PEOPLE CONSULTED WHEN YOU CON-

CLUDED AN ARMS DEAL WITH THE SOVIET UNION?

KADDAFI -- (LOUD LAUGHTER). THE AUTHORITY OF THE PEOPLE CAME IN STAGES, FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1969, WHEN WE LAUNCHED THE REVOLUTION THROUGH APRIL 1973, WHEN THE POPULAR REVOLUTION GOT STARTED AND THE MASSES SEIZED AUTHORITY AT THE GRASSROOTS, THE RCC WAS CONDUCTING POLICY. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING WE ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION -- NO TREATY, PURELY ROUTINE CONVENTIONAL RELATIONS IN THE MOST CLASSICAL FORM, WHICH ARE NOW EXCELLENT. WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE THE SAME CONCEPT WITH THE U.S. BUT THE U.S. HAS FROZEN OUR RELATIONS AND REFUSES TO EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS.

BORCHGRAVE -- YOU USED TO WARN YOUR VISITORS ABOUT SOVIET IMPERIALISM. WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO CHANGE YOUR MIND? EGYPT AND SYRIA WERE ONCE BOTH VERY CLOSE TO RUSSIA AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENED. DOESN'T THAT WORRY YOU?

KADDAFI -- WHAT I WARNED ABOUT WAS THE DANGER OF RUSSIA PURSUING A COLONIALIST POLICY. IF IT HAD TRIED TO DO THAT IN LIBYA, WE WOULD HAVE REJECTED IT. AND WE ARE INDEED AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF THE SOVIET FLEET -- AND THE U.S. FLEET, TOO -- IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. NOT AGAINST THE SOVIET FLEET ALONE MIND YOU. IF A COUNTRY TREATS YOU ON EQUAL TERMS AND SEEKS YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS, IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO BE HOSTILE OR TO CRITICIZE SOME ASPECTS OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY YOU DON'T LIKE.

BORCHGRAVE -- HOW CAN A LIBYAN ARMY OF 30,000 -- OR EVEN DOUBLED TO 60,000 -- AS YOU PLAN TO DO -- OPERATE 2,000 SOVIET-SUPPLIED TANKS?

KADDAFI -- I DISAGREE WITH YOUR FIGURES.

BORCHGRAVE -- SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE IS PRETTY ACCURATE.

KADDAFI -- WE KNOW THE TECHNIQUE AND WE HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT SOME OF THE ONES YOU SEE BEING UNLOADED AREN'T DECOYS? IN ANY EVENT WE NEED A LOT OF HARDWARE
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PAGE 03 TRIPOL 01180 01 OF 02 051555Z

AND WEAPONRY FOR THE CITIZENS ARMY WE ARE PLANNING. WE WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THE PROFESSIONAL ARMY CONCEPT AND GIVE EVERY ABLE BODIED MAN IN THE COUNTRY MILITARY TRAINING. SO IF WAR COMES, WE CAN MOBILIZE THE ENTIRE NATION AND THERE WILL BE EQUIPMENT FOR ALL -- NOT JUST FOR THE STANDING ARMY. SOME OF THE TANKS YOU SAW PARADING ON THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION WERE DRIVEN BY SPECIALLY TRAINED CIVILIANS, NOT PROFESSIONALS.

BORCHGRAVE -- IS A LOT OF THIS NEW HARDWARE JUST BEING
STORED IN CASE IT SHOULD BE NEEDED IN OTHER COUNTRIES
-- IN ANOTHER WAR AGAINST ISRAEL, FOR EXAMPLE?

KADDAFI -- THE ARMS WE HAVE BOUGHT SO FAR ARE STILL MUCH LESS
THAN WHAT A CITIZENS ARMY WILL NEED AND TO ACHIEVE OUR
TARGETS FOR A CREDIBLE SELF-DEFENSE, THEY ARE PURELY
DEFENSIVE ARMS. IT THE U.S. CLAIMS TO DEFEND THE FREE WORLD,
IT SHOULD REMEMBER THAT WE, TOO, ARE FREE AND QUITE WILLING TO
BUY U.S. ARMS TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM. WE HAVE ORDERED AND PAID
CASH FOR EIGHT U.S. C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES BUT YOUR ADMINISTRA-
TION HAS BLOCKED THEIR EXPORT AFTER THEY WERE READY TO FLY TO
LIBYA. IF THAT POLICY IS CONTINUED, WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE YOU
ARE THE ENEMY OF THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE.

BORCHGRAVE -- THE NEW SCUD MISSILES YOU DISPLAYED FOR THE
FIRST TIME ON SEPT 1 WERE DESCRIBED BY THE PARADE COMMENTATOR
AS BEING ABLE TO HIT TEL AVIV AND HAIFA. BUT THEIR RANGE IS
ONLY 180 MILES SO HOW COULD THEY HIT ISRAEL?

KADDAFI -- THE ANNOUNCER GOT CARRIED AWAY BY THE EXCITEMENT
OF THE OCCASION AND I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HE AD-
LIBBED. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT THOSE WERE IMPROVED SCUDS WITH
A SOMEWHAT LONGER RANGE - NOT ENGOUTH TO REACH ISRAEL, HOWEVER.

BORCHGRAVE -- COULD YOU LIST LOCAL INSURRECTIONS ROUND THE
WORLD THAT RECEIVE LIBYAN MATERIAL OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

KADDAFI -- IF WE COULD GET ARMS AND EQUIPMENT TO THE
LIBERATION FORCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE CERTAINLY WOULD.
BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE IT WILL BE HANDED TO
THE LIBERATION FORCES THEMSELVES AND NOT BY THE COUNTRIES
THROUGH WHICH THE WEAPONS WOULD HAVE TO TRANSIT. IF OUR
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PAGE 04 TRIPOL 01180 01 OF 02 051555Z

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION WAS CLOSER TO THE RACIST REGIMES OF
SOUTHERN AFRICA, WE WOULD FIGHT THEM OPENLY WITH OUR
OWN ARMY. NATURALLY WE GAVE ARMS TO EGYPT AND SYRIA
DURING THE RAMADAN WAR AND WE ARE ARMING THE PALESTINIAN
RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. WE CONSIDER ALL THESE CASES JUST AND WE
FEEL THAT THEY ARE A SACRED RESPONSIBILITY FOR US.

BORCHGRAVE -- NOTHING ELSE?

KADDAFI - LIBYA STANDS IN THE WAY OF THE LIQUIDATION OF
THE ARAB CAUSE AND PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS AND HAS THERE-
FORE BECOME THE TARGET OF HOSTILE ZIONIST AND ALLIED
PROPAGANDA WHICH IS SYSTEMATICALLY AND GROTESQUELY
DISTORTING LIBYAN POLICY.

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01180 02 OF 02 051628Z

53

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 01180

LIMDIS

BORCHGRAVE -- ANYTHING BEYOND THE CASES YOU MENTIONED
THEN IS PURE INVENTION?

KADDAFI -- YES.

BORCHGRAVE -- YOU HAVE DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN A RECENT
ABORTED COUP IN THE SUDAN, YET THE LEADER OF THIS
INSURRECTION AGAINST PRESIDENT NUMEIRY HAS PUBLICLY
THANKED YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

KADDAFI -- THOSE STRUGGLING FOR DUBIOUS CAUSES PRETEND
THEY HAVE POWERFUL ALLIES TO BOLSTER THEMSELVES. IT
GIVES THEM A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST FOR THE PURSUIT OF
THEIR CAUSES.

BORCHGRAVE -- BUT THE SUDANESE CAPTURED SOVIET EQUIPMENT WHOSE
LIBYAN MARKINGS AND MERCENARIES TRAINED IM LIBYA?

KADDAFI -- THIS IS PROOF THAT IT WAS ALL FABRICATED. IF
I HAD WANTED TO DO THIS, THE FIRST THING I WOULD HAVE DONE
WAS ERASE ANY TRACE OF LIBYAN MARKINGS. OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS IN THE AREA WHEN FACED WITH INTERNAL
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01180 02 OF 02 051628Z

DISSENT HAVE NOW FOUND A CONVENIENT GIMMICK -- BLAME IT ON LIBYA.
IF WORLD OPINION CANNOT SEE THROUGH THIS, IT MEANS THE WORLD
IS REALLY NAIVE OR DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR THE TRUTH.

BORCHGRAVE -- WHAT ABOUT YOUR MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE IRA?

KADDAFI -- OUR RELATIONS WITH LONDON AND DUBLIN ARE
IMPROVING RAPIDLY AND WE WILL SOON BE EXCHANGING AMBASSADORS
WITH IRELAND. THE IRA CHAPTER IS BEHIND US. THIS DOES NOT
MEAN THAT THE REUNIFICATION OF IRELAND IS NOT A WORTHY CAUSE
THAT WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE JUSTICE ON ITS SIDE. BUT IT IS NOT AN
ACUTE PROBLEM AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DROP ANYTHING THAT DOES
NOT PRESENT US WITH AN IMPERATIVE URGENCY. AND AFTER IRELAND AND
BRITAIN, I HOPE AN IMPROVEMENT WILL COME IN OUR RELATIONS WITH
THE U.S.

BORCHGRAVE -- WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF US?

KADDAFI -- YOUR ASSISTANCE TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE. WE MUST TALK
TO EACH OTHER MORE. WE HAVE 2,000 STUDENTS IN AMERICA --
MORE THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. YET WE DON'T
TALK.

BORCHGRAVE -- AT WHAT LEVEL SHOULD WE BE TALKING?

KADDAFI - AT ANY LEVEL.

BORCHGRAVE -- HAS RUSSIA PLEDGED ASSISTANCE IF
EGYPTIAN FORCES INVADE LIBYA?

KADDAFI -- WE HAVE NOT SPOKEN TO MOSCOW ABOUT IT, NOR
TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY. ONLY TO THE ARAB LEAGUE. BUT WE WERE
PLEASED TO READ PRAVDA'S OPINION SUPPORTING US.

BORCHGRAVE -- IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG IN EGYPT,
AS YOU CLAIM, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT SADAT IS SO ANGRY AND HAS
BEEN TRANSFERRING TROOPS FROM THE CANAL ZONE TO THE LIBYAN
BORDER AREAS?

KADDAFI -- I AM ASKING MYSELF THE SAME QUESTION AND I DON'T HAVE
AN ANSWER. PERHAPS WASHINGTON KNOWS.

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PAGE 03 TRIPOL 01180 02 OF 02 051628Z

BORCHGRAVE -- DO YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOUR SECRET SERVICE IS

UP TO? WHY SHOULD YOUR AGENTS TELL YOU HOW THEY ARE CARRYING OUT YOUR GUIDELINES OR HOW THEY ARE GETTING WEAPONS TO WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO GO?

KADDAFI -- THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION. ALL OVER THE WORLD SECRET INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE DOING THINGS THAT CANNOT BE CONTROLLED FROM BEGINNING TO END BY HIGH OFFICIALS. THE NATURE OF THEIR WORK GIVES THEM A CHANCE OF DOING BAD THINGS, OR IN A CLUMSY WAY. SO IN MANY CASES THEY MAY BE DOING THINGS WHICH ARE NOT PART OF THE POLICY OF THE STATE CONCERNED. AN OBVIOUS EXAMPLE IS YOUR OWN CIA. BUT THE STATE, UNFORTUNATELY, CANNOT DISOWN THEM AND SAY IT WAS AHMED'S OR MOHAMED'S FAULT. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE STATE HAS TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND LIBYA, IN THAT RESPECT, IS NO DIFFERENT THAN AMERICA OR RUSSIA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

BORCHGRAVE -- IF YOU TELL YOUR OWN AGENCY THAT YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE AND THEY FEEL THE ONLY WAY IS TO SMUGGLE GUNS IN A DIPLOMATIC POUCH, WOULD THEY TELL YOU ABOUT IT?

KADDAFI -- SENDING ARMS THROUGH YOUR SECRET SERVICE IS NOT THE CORRECT WAY OF DOING THINGS. IF WE HAD WANTED TO SEND ARMS TO ANGOLA BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, THE CORRECT WAY WOULD HAVE BEEN TO CONTACT THE LIBERATION FRONT CONCERNED AND REACH AN UNDERSTANDING. BUT IF YOU ASK YOUR MUKHABARAT (SECRET SERVICE) TO DO THAT, IT'S A BIG MISTAKE. THAT'S HOW DIPLOMATIC POUCHES GET MISUSED. WE KNOW ABOUT THESE DANGERS AND WE ARE ALERT TO THEM. IN MY OPINION, THE DETERIORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVILIZED ORDER WHICH IS NOW TAKING PLACE STEMS IN NO SMALL WAY FROM THE UTILIZATION OF LEGAL FACILITIES FOR ILLEGAL PURPOSES. WE'RE ALL SUFFERING FROM THIS SYNDROME. AS AN EXAMPLE THE WORLD AS A WHOLE HAS AGREED THAT POUCHES SHOULD NOT BE INSPECTED. THEIR MISUSE HAS VERY GRAVE IMPLICATIONS.

BORCHGRAVE -- LIBYA, ACCORDING TO MY FRENCH INFORMANTS, IS INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND YOU ARE WILLING TO PAY A LOT OF MONEY TO ACHIEVE NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. WHY AND WHAT FOR?
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PAGE 04 TRIPOL 01180 02 OF 02 051628Z

KADDAFI -- YOUR INFORMANTS ARE WRONG. WE WANT TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY -- NOT WEAPONS -- FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES -- POWER, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SO FORTH. THE WORLD SHOULD ADOPT THIS AS A UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE.

BORCHGRAVE -- ANY SIGN OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD FROM THE SOVIET UNION OR FRANCE?

KADDAFI -- WE ARE STILL SEARCHING AND ARE QUITE WILLING TO ENGAGE THE U.S. IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY NEGOTIATIONS AS YOU DID WITH SADAT. THE U.S. SHOULD HELP US TO DEVELOP THIS WAY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE FEARS ABOUT US ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE SAFEGUARDS YOU IMPOSE ON THE TRANSFER OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE AN ADDED INCENTIVE TO YOU. THAT WAY, YOU'LL BE IN THE FULL PICTURE.

BORCHGRAVE -- YOUR FORMER COLLEAGUES NOW IN EXILE SAY THAT YOU SUFFER FROM ACUTE MIGRAINES AND FROM PERIODS OF DEEP DEPRESSION FOLLOWED BY INTENSE "HIGHS". DO YOU FEEL DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE?

KADDAFI -- I DON'T SUFFER FROM MIGRAINES, ONLY FROM A SINUS CONDITION WHICH HAS NOW ENDED. PROBLEMS DON'T AFFECT MY HEALTH. THEY MAKE ME MORE ALERT AND I FORGET ABOUT ANYTHING CONCERNING ME.

BORCHGRAVE -- WHY DO YOU TEND TO WORK MOST OF THE NIGHT AND SLEEP IN THE MORNING?

KADDAFI -- I DON'T HAVE ANY SET WORKING OR SLEEPING SCHEDULE. I WORK UNTIL MY EYES FEEL HEAVY AND THEN I LIE DOWN -- SOMETIMES FOR HALF AN HOUR. OTHER TIMES FOR TWO OR THREE HOURS BEFORE I RETURN TO MY DESK OR OTHER OFFICIAL DUTIES. IT'S LIKE THAT ROUND THE CLOCK AND NIGHT IS NO DIFFERENT THAN DAY."

3. BORCHGRAVE'S COMMENT: AFTER THREE HOURS OF CONVERSATION -- HALF OF WHICH WAS TAKEN UP BY TRANSLATION WHICH KADDAFI FREQUENTLY CORRECTED HIMSELF IN ENGLISH -- THE COLONEL, CLAD IN A SALMON PINK JUMP SUIT, TOOK HIS LEAVE AND WALKED DOWN ONE FLIGHT FROM HIS OFFICE AT RCC HEADQUARTERS IN AZZIZIA BAR-
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PAGE 05 TRIPOL 01180 02 OF 02 051628Z

RACKS, SLOWLY AMBLED ACROSS THE PARADE GROUND AND INTO A MOSQUE WHERE HE KNELT AND PRAYED
NEXT TO ARMY PRIVATES.
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